

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COPENH 07260 071758Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----081918 071802Z /47
O 071707Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5556
INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 7260

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: CANDIDATES FOR POST IN UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES

REF : COPENHAGEN 7153

1. SINCE I HAD HEARD THAT SELECTION OF UNHCR WAS COMING TO VOTE TOWARD END OF THIS WEEK, I OBTAINED AN APPOINTMENT WITH POUL HARTLING LATE AFTERNOON DECEMBER 7 AT HIS FOLKETING OFFICE. I EMPHASIZED AGAIN IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THAT IT WAS IN HIS OWN INTEREST TO MAINTAIN A U.S. DEPUTY IF HARTLING WERE SELECTED FOR THE UNHCR POSITION.

2. HARTLING FIRST THANKED ME FOR THE LETTER I HAD SENT HIM IN WHICH I HAD OUTLINED U.S. REASONING FOR MAINTAINING AMERICAN AS HIS DEPUTY (REFTEL). HE THEN SAID HE HAD PURPOSELY REMAINED PUBLICLY SILENT ON THE QUESTION OF A DEPUTY BECAUSE ANYTHING HE WOULD SAY WOULD MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO RESIST PRESSURES BY THE THIRD WORLD TO SELECT ONE OF THEIR CANDIDATES AS HIS DEPUTY. DESPITE URGING BY DANISH AMBASSADOR TO UN TO COME TO NEW YORK IMMEDIATELY AFTER VOTE IS TAKEN, HARTLING PLANS TO PROCEED TO NEW YORK ONLY ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14.

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3. HARTLING ASSURED ME THAT HE IS FULLY AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING U.S. DEPUTY, BOTH FOR PURPOSE OF FUND RAISING AND MANAGERIAL REASONS. HE THOUGHT THAT THE BEST WAY OF ACHIEVING THIS RESULT WAS FOR HIM TO ASK THE INCUMBENT (MACE) TO REMAIN IN THIS POSITION UNTIL SOMETIME IN MARCH. THIS WOULD PERMIT HIM TO RESIST PRESSURES BY THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES TO MAKE A DEAL. AS AN EXPERIENCED POLITICIAN HARTING SAID HE

THOUGHT THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR HIM TO DO WAS TO GAIN TIME. HE COULD USE THE FACT THAT HE WAS A "NEW BOY ON THE BEAT" TO REQUEST THAT THE AMERICAN DEPUTY REMAIN IN PLACE UNTIL HE HAD A CHANCE TO SIZE UP THE SITUATION HIMSELF. ALSO, IN THE EVENT HARTLING WAS SELECTED FOR THE UNCHR POSITION, HE WOULD MAKE IT A POINT TO MAKE HIS FIRST CALL IN WASHINGTON, WHERE HE WOULD TALK OVER PLANS DIRECTLY WITH AMERICAN AUTHORITIES.

4. HARTLING SAID THAT HE WAS THINKING OF GIVING THE NUMBER 3 SLOT A PRESTIGIOUS TITLE, BUT IN THE MEANTIME HE WOULD ALSO PLAN TO KEEP IT VACANT UNTIL MID-MARCH WHEN HE FEELS HE WOULD BE IN BEST POSITION TO DETERMINE OVERALL STAFFING REQUIREMENTS.

5. I AM STILL PLANNING TO HAVE LUNCH WITH HARTLING ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 12 (REFTTEL) AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO CONVEY ANY THOUGHTS THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE AT THAT TIME.
DEAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, ELECTION CANDIDATES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 07-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977COPENH07260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770455-0014
Format: TEL
From: COPENHAGEN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771284/aaaactop.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4307160a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 COPENHAGEN 7153
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 333131
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANDIDATES FOR POST IN UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES
TAGS: SREF, UNHCR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4307160a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009